

No. XVII.—LIST OF THE BATRACHIANS AND REPTILES OBTAINED BY
PROF. STANLEY GARDINER* ON HIS SECOND EXPEDITION TO THE
SEYCHELLES AND ALDABRA.

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(COMMUNICATED BY PROF. J. STANLEY GARDINER, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S.)

(3 Text-figures.)

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I. SEYCHELLES.

BATRACHIANS.

APODA.

1. *Hypogeophis rostratus*, Cuv.

Mahé: sea coast below Cascade; Baie Lazare; Cascade, 800 ft.; W. side of Mt. Seychellois, 1200 ft. Praslin. Silhouette: Mare aux Cochons, 1400 ft.

2. *Hypogeophis alternans*, Stejn.

Mahé: Baie Lazare, Cascade (J. C. Fryer). Praslin. Silhouette: Mare aux Cochons, 1400 ft. (a pied albino).

3. *Hypogeophis brevis*, sp. n. (Fig. 1.)

About 12 teeth on each side of each jaw. Snout obtusely pointed, very strongly projecting; eyes very indistinct, the distance between them less than the length of the snout; tentacle below and a little behind the nostril. Body very short, its diameter 14 or 15 times in the total length; 130 folds, the first 9 to 15 complete, the following alternately complete and incomplete, the last 93 to 100 complete. Tail indistinct, rounded. Uniform dark brown.

Total length 112 mm.

Two specimens from Mahé, the smaller (measuring only 40 mm.) from Cascade, the larger from the west side of Mt. Seychellois, altitude 1200 ft.

* [I made no attempt to obtain complete collections of these groups on this Expedition, having secured a large number of specimens in 1905 (see G. A. Boulenger, Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. xii. p. 291). Indeed I only collected in the indigenous jungle and even then rejected forms which I knew I had previously obtained. The present list raises the number of Seychelles species of the Amphibia from 8 to 11. Mr J. C. Fryer visited Bird and Dennis coral islands to the north of the Seychelles Bank, spending a fortnight on each. He then went to Aldabra for four months visiting other islands *en route*. J. Stanley Gardiner.]

4. *Dermophis sechellensis*, sp. n. (Fig. 3.)

14 or 15 teeth on each side of upper jaw, 12 on each side (outer row) of lower jaw. Snout obtusely pointed, prominent; eyes rather indistinct or scarcely distinct, the distance between them nearly equal to the length of the snout; tentacle in front of and below the eye, three times as distant from the nostril as from the eye. Body short, its diameter 17 to 22 times in the total length; 147 to 160 folds, the first 18 to 26 complete, the following alternately complete and interrupted, the last 43 to 77 complete. Tail indistinct, rounded. Dark brown or blackish; vent usually in a whitish spot.

Total length 190 mm.

Overlooking the very small inner mandibular teeth, I referred the first specimens obtained by Prof. Gardiner to the allied *Cryptopsophis multiplicatus*, and recorded them under that name in my previous list. The larger material which has now been placed at my disposal shows this Cæcilian to belong to the genus *Dermophis*, of which four species occur in Tropical America, one in the West-African Island San Thomé, and one in British East Africa.

Mahé: Cascade (J. C. Fryer); W. side of Mt. Seychellois, 1200 ft. Praslin. Silhouette: Mare aux Cochons, 1400 ft.

5. *Praslinia cooperi*, Blgr.

Mahé: Cascade (J. C. Fryer).

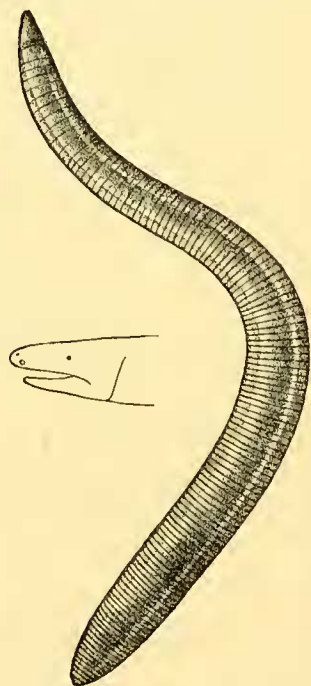


Fig. 1. *Hypogeophis brevis*. Nat. size.
Head $\times 3$.



Fig. 2. *Nectophryne gardineri*. $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$.



Fig. 3. *Dermophis sechellensis*. $\times 3$.

ECAUDATA.

6. *Rana mascareniensis*, Dum. and Bibr.

Mahé: Cascade; Marsh at Anse Takamaka. Silhouette.

7. *Nesomantis thomasseti*, Blgr.

Mahé: Top Mt. Pilot, 2700 ft.; Top of Mt. Harrison, 2400 ft. Silhouette: Summit, 2467 ft.

8. *Sooglossus sechellensis*, Boettg.

Mahé: Mt. Harrison over 2000 ft.; high jungle over Cascade; Top mountain, 2700 ft. Silhouette: high jungle, Morne Capucin, 1800 ft.

9. *Megalixalus sechellensis*, Dum. and Bibr.

Mahé: Cascade (J. C. Fryer). Silhouette: Mare aux Cochons, 1400 ft.

10. *Nectophryne gardineri*, sp. n. (Fig. 2.)

Snout pointed, prominent, hardly as long as the eye; loreal region vertical; interorbital space broader than the upper eyelid; tympanum hidden. Fingers and toes short, much depressed, with a rudiment of web and no subarticular tubercles, the former terminating rather suddenly into a point, the latter expanded into well developed round disks; two feebly prominent metatarsal tubercles. Tarso-metatarsal articulation reaching the tip of the snout. Head and back more or less distinctly granular; a flat round tubercle on the upper eyelid, sometimes followed by a series of four similar tubercles along each side of the back. Pinkish brown above, blackish brown on the sides, the two shades sharply delimited; dark brown spots or markings, sometimes confluent into a broad band along the middle of the back, may be present; one specimen with a light vertebral streak; oblique dark bands may be present on the limbs; lower parts yellowish, spotted or marbled with dark brown.

Total length 15 mm.

This tiny toad, one of the smallest known, belongs to a genus represented by several species in the African and Oriental regions, and which probably includes the viviparous toad described by Tornier as *Pseudophryne vivipara*.

Mahé: Morne Pilot, 2700 ft. Silhouette: highest jungle.

REPTILES.

LACERTILIA.

1. *Hemidactylus frenatus*, Dum. and Bibr.

Bird I. (J. C. Fryer).

2. *Æluronyx sechellensis*, Dum. and Bibr.

Praslin. Silhouette.

3. *Phelsuma madagascariense*, Gray.

Praslin. Silhouette. Bird I. (J. C. Fryer). Dennis I. (J. C. F.).

4. *Mabuia sechellensis*, Dum. and Bibr.

Silhouette. Dennis (J. C. Fryer).

5. *Scelotes braueri*, Boettg.

Mahé: Cascade (J. C. Fryer): high jungle. Silhouette.

6. *Scelotes gardineri*, Blgr.

Mahé: high jungle. Silhouette.

RHIPTOGLOSSA.

7. *Chamaleon tigris*, Kuhl.

Mahé. Silhouette.

OPHIDIA.

8. *Boodon geometricus*, Schleg.

Silhouette.

9. *Lycognathophis sechellensis*, Schleg.

Mahé: Cascade. Silhouette.

II. ALDABRA, ETC.

(COLLECTED BY MR J. C. FRYER.)

REPTILES.

1. *Hemidactylus gardineri*, Blgr.

Aldabra: Malabar, Takamaka, Picard. Cosmoledo: Menai. Astove.

2. *Phelsuma madagascariense*, var. *abbotti*, Stejn.

Aldabra: Malabar, Takamaka, Picard. Assumption.

3. *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*, Gray.

Cosmoledo: N.E. Island. Peculias.

4. *Ablepharus boutonii*, var. *peronii*, Coct.

Aldabra: Takamaka, Picard. Cosmoledo: Menai. Assumption. Astove.

The only other species recorded from Aldabra, but unrepresented in this collection, are: *Testudo gigantea**, Schweigg, and *Hemidactylus mabouia*, Mor. The latter, however, rests on Stejneger's identification and is probably the same as the small form described by me as *H. gardineri*.

* [Mr Fryer's notes on this species will be found in his report on Aldabra in this volume. J. S. G.]